

THE GRYPHON



Newsletter of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide | VOL. 51 / Issue 2/ Late Spring 2023

OUR BEAUTIFUL BAIRD TARTAN

Tartan is the fabric and soul of Scotland, it binds together family, history and culture. The Bairds are no stranger to Tartans and have a unique history of tartan. By understanding the language of tartans, the history of tartan research, we can understand and uncover authentic Baird tartans.

Today, the term tartan means “clan tartans” or designs and patterns that are specific to a family or clan. Further mythology states that all Tartans are ancient, and clans could only wear one tartan design. In other words, the Clan had one uniform, and everyone wore that uniform. This is a silly notion as the thought of convincing everyone to wear the same outfit and play “who wore it better” is plainly absurd.

The truth is that Tartans continually evolve and were lightly regulated until recently. In 2009, the Scottish Government funded the Scottish Register of Tartans. It combined the work of several tartan books and weavers as well as three research groups, the Scottish Tartans Society (1963) of North Carolina, the Scottish Tartans Authority (1996) and/or the Scottish Tartans World Register (2000). Of these organizations, the Scottish Tar-

tan Society and Scottish Tartans World register are now defunct. Tartan history and research is in its infancy.

Tartan documentation began in the 1800s with some dubious start. The first identification of Tartan was Wilsons of Bannockburn who during the 1700s began to assign town names and family names to tartan. In 1815, The Highland Society of London began to request Clan Chiefs send samples of their tartans and many Clan chiefs simply didn't know or relied on Wilson. By 1819 Wilsons' Key Pattern Book of 1819, some 250 tartans are included, about 100 of which were given



The Modern Baird Tartan



The Ancient Baird Tartan

names. In 1842, two men, posing are descendants of Bonnie Prince Charlie, solidified the world's imagination of the Clan Tartans when they wrote the book *Vestuarium Scotiorum*.

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L to R: Commander Richard Baird wearing the Ancient Baird tartan, his mother Lady Diana Holman wearing the Modern Baird tartan and Angus Holman Baird also wearing the Ancient Baird tartan.

Continued from page 1

This is not to say that there are not historical tartans or tartans produced in a specific region. Nor does it mean that Tartans today are less authentic. Traditions form over time and the tradition of Clan Tartans has become well entrenched. In fact, the time from now to the Highland Proscription Act, the act preventing the wearing of Highland dress, is almost the same amount of time from 1745 to the first historical recordings of the kilt in the 1500s. Traditions are no less valid because they aren't as old.

The Clan Baird Society Worldwide has partnered with House of Tartan to bring affordable tartan to its members. In addition to wool, House of Tartan now has synthetic Scottish tartan materials such as polyviscose. House of Tartan provides the Modern and Ancient tartan, as well as the Baird Dress tartan. For members of the society who use the partnership store, members can receive Scottish tartan at a significantly cheaper rate than is found in other places including Amazon. At the same time, a part of the proceeds go back to the Society. This means you can save money and help grow the Society.

****See House of Tartan on page 4****



Understanding the language of tartans can help us understand more about the Baird Tartans. To do this, we should define terms as we have an international audience.

- **Tartan** A tartan is a design which is capable of being woven consisting of two or more alternating coloured stripes which combine vertically and horizontally to form a repeated chequered pattern.
- **Plaid** Derives from the Gaelic word *Plaide* (PLAY-ja) or blanket.
- **Thread Count** The DNA of the Tartan. This is the number of threads for each corresponding color. All tartans are registered according to the threadcount.
- **Sett** Is a repeating pattern of Plaid. A sett makes it unique and a threadcount defines it.
- **Colourways (Palette)** A tartan sett woven with lighter or darker colours for different. These are not registered. This is purely an aesthetic difference and for taste. These have names such as Modern, Ancient, Muted, Reproduction. The Ancient uses natural dyes and hence is lighter. The muted tartan colours are supposed to represent authentic aged colours. Modern uses synthetic dyes and are darker and richer in color. Interestingly, these became popular in the 20th century and were sold by the mills.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF TARTAN, FOLLOW THESE LINKS BELOW



A RADICAL NEW LOOK AT ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST-KNOWN TEXTILES

The instantly recognisable symbol of Scotland, a global textile of tradition, rebellion, oppression and fashion, tartan has connected and divided communities worldwide, inspiring great works of art as well as playful and provocative designs.



Haptic & Hue Tales of Textiles

Tartan is much more than a pattern... It can represent the establishment and the power of the state, and at the same time signify rebellion and treachery. It can be an emblem of enslavement and oppression, or it can represent comfort, family, and home. Its meanings are as diverse as its many patterns.

OUR BEAUTIFUL BAIRD TARTAN

The Bairds have three tartans woven in different colourways or palettes



ANCIENT



MODERN



MUTED



FIRST RECORDED BAIRD TARTAN

The above tartan is first recorded in Johnston's work of 1906, and the sample from the Highland Society of London probably dates from the same period. In both these early references the triple stripes are rendered in red.

The Scottish Tartan Register lists two Baird tartans. The first is the Baird Tartan and the Second is the Baird (Modern). They are the same tartans but had two different colors for the striping. The first was red and today in purple.

Continued on page 10

By learning the language and history of tartan, we can become more aware of our own history and heritage. Connecting our past, provides stability that can help us grow into the future.



Angus Holman Baird wearing the Ancient tartan.

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PURCHASE
YOU MAKE A
CONTRIBUTION
TO THE CLAN



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Baird Clan Crest Classic Black Baseball Cap with Metallic Gold and Silver embroidered Clan Crest.



Dog Bandana in Baird Tartan. Each washable bandana comes with a light-gauge utility collar.

Richard Baird of Ury and Rickarton, Commander of Clan Baird and a member of the Royal Company of Archers stands guard to welcome the Lord High Commissioner to Scotland

On 19 May, 2023, Richard Baird of Ury and Rickarton, the Commander of Clan Baird and member of Royal Company of Archers, served as the bodyguard. The Lord High Commissioner represents the King during the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He or she is entitled to use the Scottish Royal Banner, and has precedence immediately after the King and before the rest of the Royal Family. Even his or her official car receives special treatment and, except for the King's, is the only vehicle in the country not to have number plates. However, the plates are re-attached during the closing speech of the Assembly, and the Lord High Commissioner returns to his royal but temporary residence as an ordinary citizen.

Lord Hodge (Patrick Hodge) grew up in Perthshire and attended Rattray Parish Church with his parents and is today associated with Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh. He is one of the two Scottish Justices on the Supreme Court and is also a Non-Permanent Justice on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

As a representative of the King, the Company of Royal Archers act as the official bodyguard. Richard Baird of Ury and Rickarton, Commander of Clan Baird has served as a Royal Archer for over 30 years and was able to serve in this year's duty. The Royal Company of Archers has long tradition going back to the 17th century.

www.nam.ac.uk/explore/company-archers



Coat of the Royal Company of Archers, King's Body Guard for Scotland, 1822 (c)



Commander Richard Baird far left, Second from left Jamie Fraser, Adjutant of RCA, far right, Richard Callander, Commanding Officer for the duty, Holyrood North Gate to Holyrood Palace.



Dear Members,

Summer (shirt sleeves) has finally arrived in Scotland, but don't worry we'll be back to normal (a bit dreich), aka pouring rain, in time for the Bairds Pilgrimage to Scotland at the end of July ?!



Come rain or shine, it will be a great trip and we have a full program of events planned to keep you amused and make it a memorable visit for all.

I am very pleased to see from the 'Ceud Mile Failte' column that the Society is still growing in size, but 15 USA to 1 UK is a bit of a whitewash !! Well done USA, you are all important in driving our Clan forward. A big "Welcome" and I hope you enjoy all that the Society has to offer, especially those of you needing genealogical work done. We work hard to re-connect our Worldwide family and we now use all sorts of internet platforms to provide a forum for current / topical information, as well as being just fun.

If you want to get more involved in your Society, please let one of the Office Bearers know, there are always jobs to do and as the saying goes, many hands make light work.

I look forward to meeting new Bairds where ever and when ever. A visiting Argentinian Baird came to my door to other day, just to see if I really existed, but that's another story.....

Best regards
Richard



BLOG OF CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

Welcome to the Pictish Boar!

Baird and Scottish Stories Traditions, and History

The Pictish Boar is a collaborative blog site featuring regular and guest bloggers about Baird and Scottish heritage. The blog is area of communication, thought, and discussion. It will look at preserving the culture and heritage which includes stories, history, and language while aiding modern communities. Areas of interest will include folklore, archaeology, traditions, the Scottish Gaelic and "Doric" Scots Languages, and current events.

[CLICK ON LOGO TO TAKE YOU TO THE WEBPAGE](#)





CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY CANADA

The Clan Baird Society Canada is finishing the process of organizing itself under the umbrella of the worldwide society.

The society's mission, beyond the worldwide society's goal of promoting Baird and Scottish history, culture, and family within Canada, is to bring value and support to Canadian society members while helping support Canadian 'Baird' businesses.

The Canadian website is "Live" clanbairdsociety.ca The committee has already been busy arranging business collaborations, as well as preparing for the upcoming Highland Games and Scottish Festival season.

Clan Baird will be represented at the following events:

Georgetown Highland Games
June 10th in Georgetown, Ontario

Cambridge Scottish Festival
July 15th in Cambridge, Ontario

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games
August 12th and 13th in Fergus Ontario

Canmore Highland Games
September 2nd and 3rd
in Canmore, Alberta

While we will have an official clan presence at each of the above events, we will also have unofficial at the following events

Coburg Highland Games
June 17th in Coburg, Ontario

Embro Highland Games
July 1st in Embro, Ontario

Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games
July 8th in Kincardine, Ontario



On behalf of the Canadian committee, Cameron welcomes you to reach out to him, whether to discuss the Clan Baird Society Canada, or if you want to catch up at any of the events above, info@clanbairdsociety.ca

THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE



Cameron Curwood, President



Stephen Baird, Vice-President



Colin Baird, Treasurer



David Radley, Secretary



“We are a continuum. Just as we reach back to our ancestors for our fundamental values, so we, as guardians of that legacy, must reach ahead to our children and their children. And we do so with a sense of sacredness in that reaching.”

– Paul Tsongas

While the rest of the Northern world is deep in the grips of Old Man Winter, those of us who reside in sunny Florida are enjoying beautiful, temperate weather that is perfect for outdoor activities. This was a busy year for the Baird Clan in Florida as it was the first time we were represented at the Central Florida Highland Games on January 14th in the ironically named city of Winter Springs. We then traveled further South to Plantation, Florida on March 4th to take part in the South-eastern Florida Scottish Games.



Clan Baird booth at 2023 SouthEast Florida Highland Games, Plantation, Florida

Then jaunted to the opposite coast near Tampa on April 1st for the Dunedin Highland Games. Fun fact: Dunedin

Florida actually has the only grade 1 pipe band in North America, so it was a distinct pleasure to watch this pipe band dominate the competition. I am



Preparing to march with my daughter, Rozlynn, in the parade of Clans, Plantation,

the Honor Guard bagpiper for the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office, so this has been particularly rewarding for me being able to bring my bagpipes to the games for a show and tell of sorts with passersbys I get to greet them at the

Clan Baird tent. Most folks see the bagpipes from afar and really don’t get an up-close look at the inner workings of them and the history behind them. My family and I enjoy meeting people and discussing the Baird lineage, of which we are especially proud. It is exciting to see a new generation of Bairs carrying on the family legacy, as my 16-year-old daughter Rozlynn has really taken an interest in

our ancestry. Just as the ancient bards of old I am grateful to be able to pass along these traditions to a younger



Bagpipes honors for Manatee County Sheriff Sgt. Chris Atkinson funeral.

generation through spoken word and even song. I believe that tomorrow is never guaranteed, and we must make every effort to invest in the present, but more specifically our children who will further the Baird legacy. If you find yourself looking for an escape from the arctic grips of a depressive winter, feel free to fly South to sunny Florida where summer never ends and visit us at one of our many Highland games held during the winter months.

May God bless and keep you all,
Nate Baird Boggs



ONE OF THE YOUNGEST
CLAN BAIRD MEMBERS
WON A GOLD AND BRONZE
IN THE PRIMARY HIGHLAND
DANCES AT THE
GEORGETOWN HIGHLAND
GAMES, ONTARIO CANADA



The dancer is the daughter of Cameron Curwood, president of Clan Baird Society Canada. Elspeth “Elsie” Curwood, of Milton, Ontario, Canada. She is the grand-daughter of the late Anne Dickson Baird of Motherwell, Scotland. She is 4 years old and the Georgetown Highland Games are in Georgetown, Ontario, Canada. She finished 1st in the “Pas de Basques” dance and 3rd in the “Pas de Basques and High-cuts” dance.



Elsbeth “Elsie” Curwood
photo credit: Georgetown Highland Games



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OUR BEAUTIFUL BAIRD TARTAN



BAIRD DRESS/DANCE opt. 1



BAIRD DRESS/DANCE opt. 2

The Baird Dress tartan is considered one of the finest dance tartans. It is also woven in different palettes as well. Some mills have begun to weave the sett in purple and gold as well as green palettes. They are still the same tartan and thread count but different hue. Dress variation of standard Baird. It's not known if this started life as Dance tartan or a legitimate Dress variation of the clan tartan but has become a standards dress tartan.



BEARD TARTAN

Beard Tartan identified in the United States in North Carolina, having a unique thread count. This may seem inauthentic but early Scottish Highlanders in North Carolina did leave behind unique tartans and this may be a remnant of those early times. Threadcount from a sample brought to the Tartan Educational and Cultural Association (TECA) for identification at Grandfather Mountain Games in 1996 by a Mr. Beard, who said the tartan had belonged to his great grandmother.



CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

Clan Baird Society Worldwide Foundation, Inc.
is classified as a 501(c) 3 charity.
Founded in 2020

CBSW Foundation Board Members:

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Debra J. Baird
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Clan Baird Society
Worldwide Foundation
supports Scotland
and Scottish culture,
preserves and
restores Clan Baird
artifacts and sites in
Scotland, and protects
all things Scottish.



CEUD MÌLE FÀILTE!

(100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome the
following to Clan Baird
Society Worldwide*

NEW MEMBERS SPRING 2023

Andrew Baird, Texas

Beau Douglas Baird, Washington

Bella Grace Baird, Washington

David Baird, Oregon

Makena Bailey Baird, Washington

Jagger Douglas Baird, Washington

James Ivey Baird, South Carolina

Jennifer Baird, Massachusetts

Theresa Baird, South Carolina

Loren Cleveland, New York

Denise Crawford, Indiana

Kimberly Holladay, Michigan

Elizabeth Nalle, Virginia

Carol Ormond, Utah

Paula Tigerman, Minnesota

Andrew Ward, Yorkshire, UK



Clan Baird Society Worldwide- YouTube

CBSW has an official YouTube channel. Please stay tuned as we prepare more videos for your viewing pleasure. Learn about Clan Baird and Clan NaeSmyth, the 50 year history of CBSW, our Commander, and events concerning CBSW membership.

Please consider sending pictures and videos of Baird and NaeSmyth related events, such as reunions, weddings and birthday celebrations, historical commemoration events, walks through cemeteries, castles and ruins, renditions of family lore, piping and dancing, etc. Include some details describing the event and include any credits to be given.

Send submissions to:
bairdbranton@gmail.com

Baird and Naesmyth DNA Study

CLAN BAIRD
SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

HOSTED BY: ANCESTRAL SPOTLIGHT
AND BRANCHES IN TIME GENEALOGY

Go to:

[https://www.familytreedna.com/
groups/baird-naesmyth-dna-study/
about](https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/baird-naesmyth-dna-study/about)

Any questions, comments, or genealogical queries, please email Crystal T. Davis at AncestralSpotlight@gmail.com

Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

First Quarter - 2023
Jan. 1 through Mar. 31, 2023

Income:	
Dues Received	165.00
Donation - Foundation	
Donation - Scarves & Ties	
Coat of Arms donation to date: \$46.00	
Total Income for Period	165.00
Expense:	
Advertising	75.00
Website Services - 3 months	195.55
Scholarship	
Genealogy	
Gryphon	300.00
Games	195.00
Ties & Scarves - UK	
PayPal fees	9.27
Total Expenses for Period:	774.82
Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	(609.82)
Cash in Bank - Last Report:	5,010.44
Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	4,400.62

Submitted by:
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Summer 2023 Issue
Deadline July 15th

Autumn 2023 Issue
Deadline October 31st

Winter 2024 Issue
Deadline February 1st

Please submit
newsletter articles to:

Heather Snyder at
clanbairdpublicist@yahoo.com

or mail to:

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63 Northview Dr.
Northfield, VT 05663
USA

Electronic file formats
accepted are
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Adobe Acrobat (PDF)
Any photo images,
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Any questions about
The Gryphon submissions please
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